

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

of whom you will succour His Spouse, will deliver you."¹ While Clement was urging Louis of Anjou to invade Italy for the phantasmal kingdom of Adria, Urban was appealing to Louis of Hungary and Charles of Durazzo, his cousin, to succour the Roman Church and deprive Giovanna of the Neapolitan throne. In the January of this year, 1379, ambassadors from the King had been in Florence, announcing that their master was coming with an army to Italy after Easter, and demanding assistance from the Commune.² But, for the present, Louis was engaged in helping Francesco da Carrara and the Genoese in their war against Venice, the famous War of Chioggia, which was taken by their allied forces on August 15 ; and, at the end of the month Charles arrived with ten thousand Hungarians in the Trevisano where the Lord of Padua was pressing on the siege of Trevis itself.

It is heartrending to find Catherine involved in this deplorable affair ; but it is clear from her letters that she was merely Urban's tool, acting in good faith, without the slightest realization of the extent to which he and Charles were prepared to carry out their scheme. Nothing can palliate the infamy of Charles's conduct towards his kinswoman and benefactress, but some slight excuse for Urban may be found in the fact that Clement had been the first to summon the foreigner into Italy. In her long letter to the King of Hungary, urging him, as he had always been the champion of the faith against the infidels, to be now the defender of the Church, Catherine sets before his eyes the "true and most perfect charity that seeketh not her own," and bids him make peace with his other enemies and come speedily. "Will ye endure that Antichrist, member of the demon, and a worm should cast all our faith into ruin and darkness and confusion ? " Much good will result from your coming. Perhaps, this truth will be made clear without human power, and this poor little woman, the Queen, will be delivered from her obstinacy either 1

¹ Letter 339 (205). Similarly, to the Sienese, in Letter 311 (203) : '<! vediamo il tempo ad awemmento de' signon" (Harleian MS.). ^a *Anonimo Florentine*, p. 391.